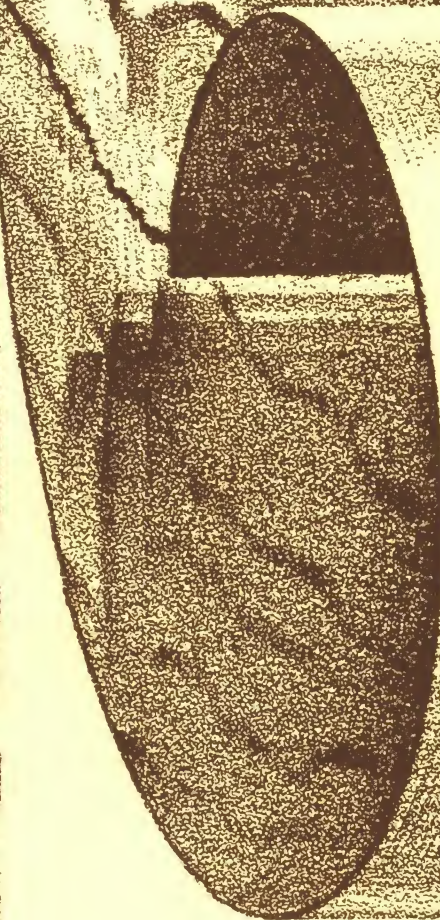


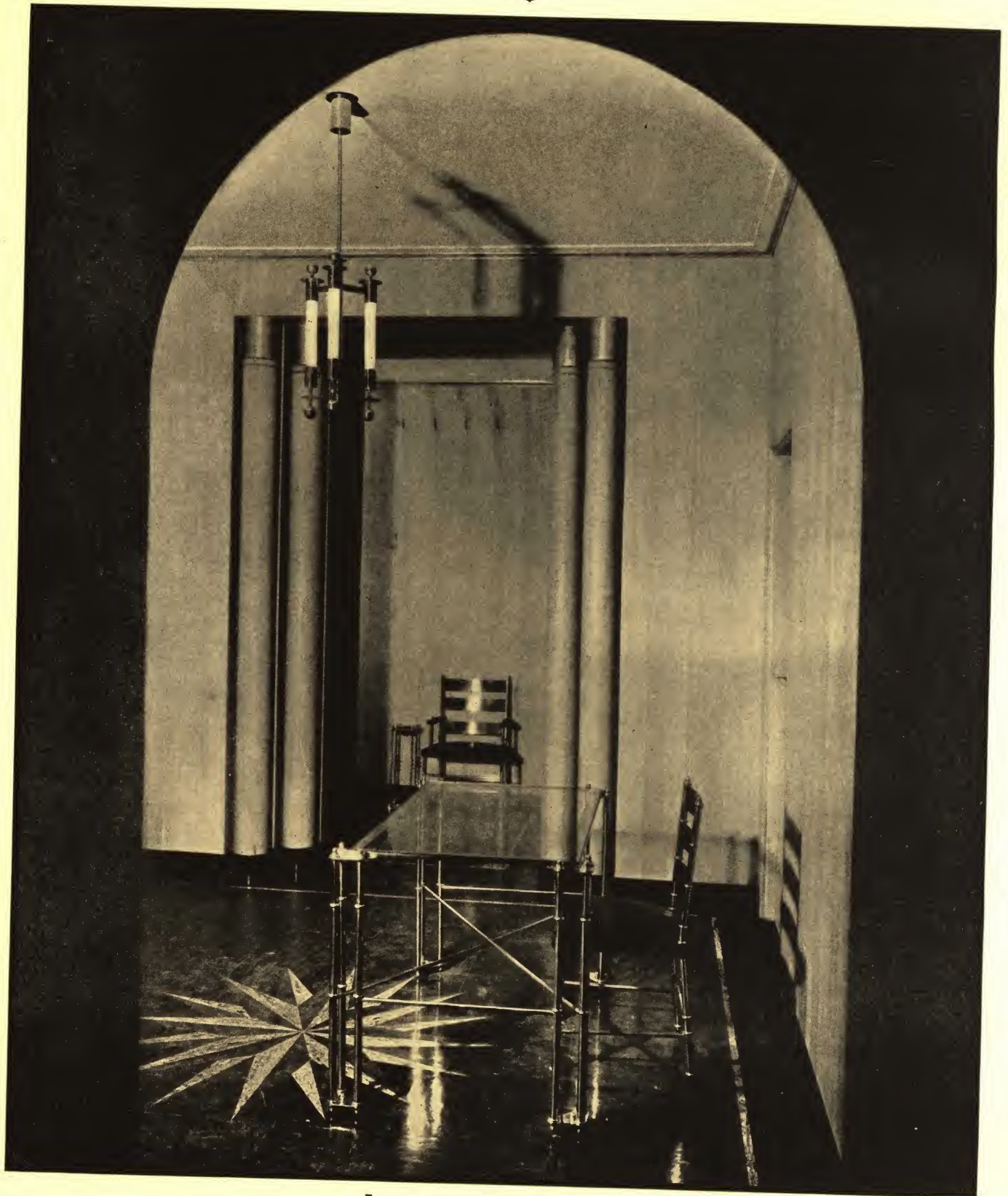
flexwood



THE FLEXWOOD COMPANY

**4413 West Division Street
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

flexwood



Entrance Brokers' Office, Chicago
Modern treatment. Quartered Oak. Flush Walls.
Samuel A. Marx, Architect

Photo by Hedrick-Blessing

THE FLEXWOOD COMPANY

4413 West Division Street, CHICAGO, ILL.

BRANCH OFFICE, Chrysler Building, NEW YORK



Description—Physical Properties

Flexwood is genuine selected cabinet wood, cut thin and so mounted on fabric that it acts as a unit—the two are inseparable. The wood, through a special patented process, is rendered extremely flexible so that it can easily be bent around corners without cracking—the grain of the wood being parallel to the edge about which it is bent.

The same process that renders the wood flexible removes its power to warp or check. It may be applied to any smooth, flat wall surface.

Application

Flexwood is as pliable as canvas and is applied to the wall surface with a special Flexwood paste. It is applied by any competent paperhanger who will follow Flexwood specifications.

General Characteristics—Appearance

Walls finished in Flexwood obviously have all the characteristics and appearance of wood. The material offers the opportunity to use genuine wood for interior decoration without the limitations of size, structural difficulties or excessive costs associated with conventional cabinet wood paneling.

Used in conjunction with wood accessory mouldings of base, wainscot caps, pannel mouldings, cornices, etc., practically any architectural period effect may be obtained. The material lends itself with unusual success to modern design treatment.

Flexwood has been used by many nationally known architects in outstanding installations throughout the country. Its architectural appeal and acceptance as a material of marked practicability and exceptional design qualities have been most gratifying.

Woods and Sizes

Flexwood is supplied from stock in lengths 8, 9 and 10 feet, in the following standard cabinet woods:

American Walnut (Matched or Unmatched)—

Half round (bold matched pattern) widths 8 to 15 in.
Sliced (more vertical pattern) widths 6 to 14 in.
Rotary (occasionally used where sheets 18 to 30 in. wide are required).

Mahogany (Matched or Unmatched)—

Ribbon (quartered vertical stripes) widths 8 to 14 in.
Flat cut (bold matched pattern) widths 10 to 18 in.

White Oak (Matched or Random)—

Quartered (shows flake figure) widths 6 to 10 in.
Plain (flake very faint or lacking) widths 8 to 13 in.

Prima Vera (Matched or Unmatched)—

Flat cut (figure from plain to ribbon) widths 8 to 15 in.

Lacewood (Matched)—

Quartered (flake figure) widths 8 to 13 in.

Knotty Pine (Random Boards)—

Stock limited widths 5 to 12 in.

Note: Never specify a minimum width of matched stock as a run of sheets all one width cannot be supplied.

Other Woods—While Flexwood stocks are not always complete in the following woods, they may frequently be obtained: Birch, Maple, Oriental Wood, Aspen,

Maca wood, Ayua and other woods. Always consult THE FLEXWOOD COMPANY before specifying other than standard woods.



Sheets of Walnut and Mahogany Flexwood Showing Typical Stock and Finished Samples on Metal and Wall Boards

Finishing

The finishing should be done by a competent wood-finisher.

The natural beauty of the wood is best revealed by transparent varnishes and lacquers, which preserve, without hiding, the pattern of the grain.

A dull or flat finish is preferred, though any finish used on wood may be used on Flexwood.

Samples

Since Flexwood is a natural product dependent upon the particular log or cutting obtainable, there are the same variations as would apply to cabinet wood veneers. Samples show only general appearance and color.

METHOD OF APPLYING FLEXWOOD



Application of Wall Liner
to Plaster Walls
Cloth is hung dry



Application of Paste to Back
of Flexwood Sheets
Sufficient paste on edges very important



In Hanging Flexwood,
Edges Are Butted Together Lightly
and the Joint Made the Full Length of the Sheet



Using a Hot Pressing Iron
Heat softens paste spots that become too dry before
application, thus making firm bond

FLEXWOOD—MASTER SPECIFICATIONS

Include as a Separate Division of the Painting and Decorating Specifications

Note: Notes in italics are explanatory or advisory only and should not be included in the specifications.

Note: This form is a Master Specification and includes clauses covering all conditions ordinarily encountered. Select and include only those clauses which apply to the particular work.

(1) Work Included

The work required under this specification includes all labor, materials, equipment and services necessary for and reasonably incidental to the providing of all Flexwood on the following areas:

Note: Here list and locate all rooms to be furnished with Flexwood, designating the particular wood used or refer to the detail drawing containing the information by sheet and number.

Note: If solid wood cornices, picture moulds, chair-rails, wainscot caps, baseboards, panel mouldings, applied over Flexwood are to be furnished and erected by this contractor, list and locate here. If furnished and erected by the Carpentry Contractor, so mention here and specify under the Carpentry Division.

(2) Shop Drawings

Drawings not furnished by the architect shall be furnished in triplicate by this contractor, if required.

(3) Samples

Ordinarily samples of Flexwood are not required in the standard woods. Finished samples shall be prepared from the actual flitch to be used. These samples to be approved by the Architect.

(4) Storage and Protection

All Flexwood, upon receipt at the building, shall be stored in the original package (preferably under lock and key) in a dry room maintained at a uniform temperature until applied. Adequately protect the edges and surfaces of Flexwood at all times.

(5) Workmanship

All labor shall be performed in the best manner by skilled workmen.

(6) Preparation of Walls

(6a) General—

(6a1) The surfaces to receive Flexwood shall be thoroughly dry and smooth.

Note: Moisture will impair permanent adhesion. Irregularities and imperfections in the surface will obviously appear through the Flexwood applied to it.

(6a2) Lead and oil paint in good condition need not be removed. If paint is glossy, rub down with steel wool. Flat paint must be removed.

(6b) Plaster Walls—

(6b1) Remove all grit from walls with sandpaper and point up defects with Swedish Putty or plaster of paris mixed with glue size.

(6b2) Completely remove all hard or gloss oil on old or calcimined walls by brushing Flexwood paste on wall and allowing this to dry, thereby peeling the size off wall.

(6b3) Prime the complete surface of the wall with Flexwood Primer. Allow the primer to dry at least 24 hours.

(6c) Wall Board Walls—

(6c1) *Gypsum Wall Boards*—All joints and nail holes shall be rendered smooth and permanently tight by pointing up with Swedish Putty or water putty.

Prime all surfaces with Flexwood Primer. Allow the primer to dry at least 24 hours.

(6c2) *Wood, Plywood and Presdwood*—Remove the glossy surface of hard fiber board with sandpaper. Render all nail holes and joints smooth and tight by pointing up with Swedish or water putty. Prime all surfaces with Flexwood Primer. Allow Primer to dry at least 24 hours.

Wood surfaces that have been painted with lead and oil are satisfactory as a base for Flexwood, but flat paint, shellac, lacquer and varnish must be removed.

Note: All joints on wood surfaces must be battened with wood battens to avoid joints in the finished work due to expansion and contraction of wood.

(6d) *Metal Walls*—Clean the metal surface to remove all traces of oil, by the use of Oakite or Wyan-dotte. Use a solution of six ounces to a gallon of hot water, washing the metal with the solution as recommended by the manufacturers, and subsequently rinsing with clean water. Apply Flexwood Primer to the metal in a uniform coat well brushed out and allow this to dry at least 24 hours.

(6e) *Marble, Concrete, Glass, Cement Asbestos Board, Glazed Tile Walls, Etc.—*

Note: For specifications covering application to these and other surfaces, write to THE FLEXWOOD COMPANY, 4413 West Division Street, Chicago, Illinois.

(7) Materials

(7a) *Flexwood*—Flexwood, listed and located in paragraph (1), shall be as manufactured by THE FLEXWOOD COMPANY, 4413 West Division Street, Chicago, Illinois.

(7b) *Paste*—Paste shall be special paste as furnished by THE FLEXWOOD COMPANY, mixed in accordance with the manufacturer's directions printed on the container.

(7c) *Wall Liner*—Wall liner shall be the Flexwood Wall Liner as furnished by THE FLEXWOOD COMPANY.

(7d) *Primer*—Flexwood Primer shall be the Flexwood Primer as furnished by THE FLEXWOOD COMPANY.

Note: Flexwood Primer eliminates painting or other sizing. The primer largely overcomes alkalinity in plaster and eliminates "hotspots" and suction in plaster walls.

(8) Wall Lining

Line the wall with Flexwood Liner. Apply the Flexwood Paste, as specified on the paste container, to the wall and hang the liner dry vertically, lapping the joints $\frac{3}{4}$ in. to 1 in. Roll the lapped joints flat with the aid of a 2-in. seam roller, kept wet.

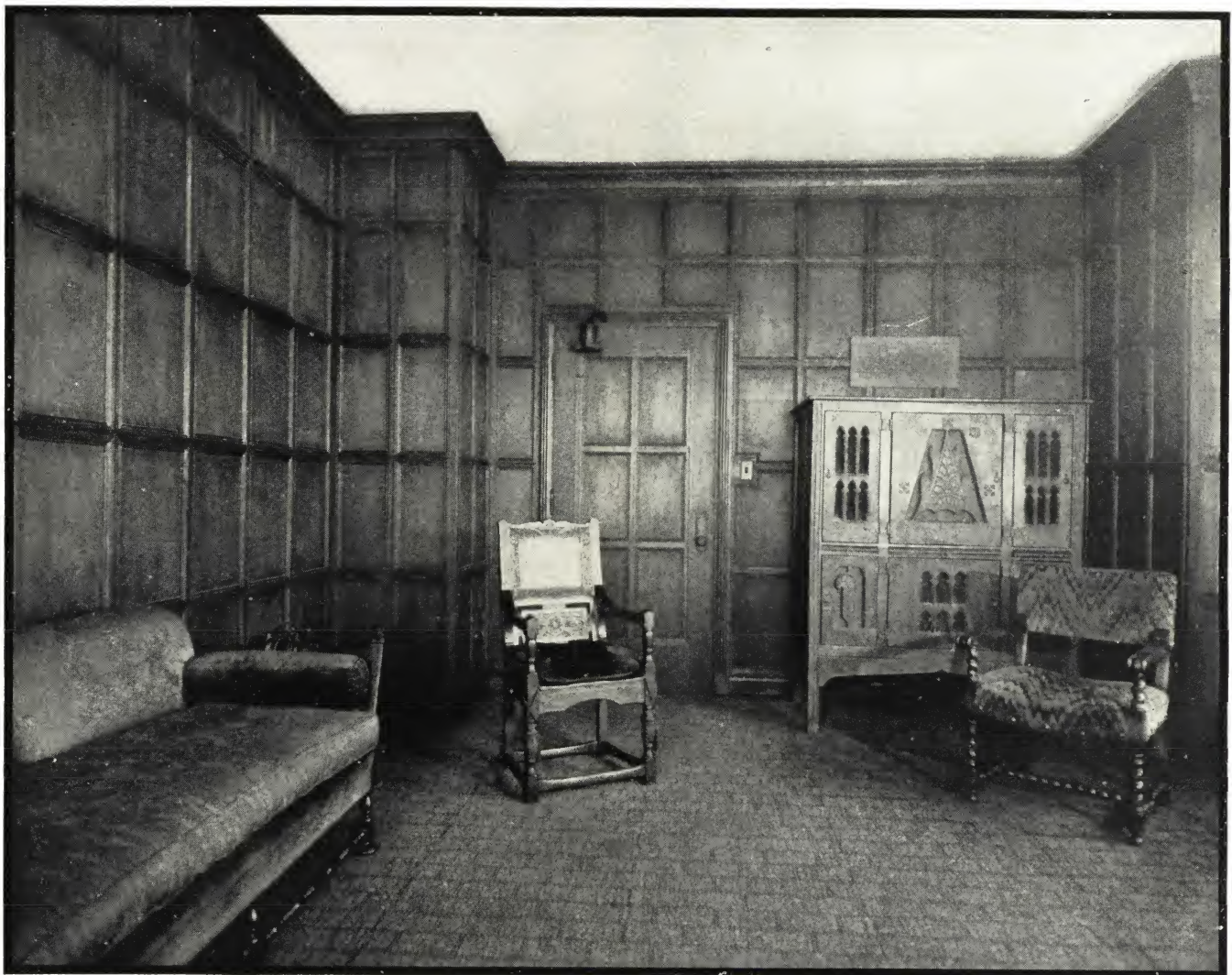
Note: Wall Lining is not required over wood, plywood, Presdwood or metal walls.



Display and Sales Room,
Specialty Luggage Shop, Cincinnati
Walls of Prima Vera
Inlaid design in Lacewood



Alfred E. Smith's Board Room, Empire State Corp.,
Empire State Building, New York
Shreve, Lamb & Harmon, Architects
Prima Vera and Mahogany



Private Office, Palmolive Building, Chicago
Flexwood in English block paneling with wood
stiles and rails. Plain Oak

(9) Hanging the Flexwood

Note: All wall surfaces, including those covered with Flexwood Liner, must be dry before application of Flexwood.

(9a) **Trimming**—Knife trimming shall only be done on a table before the Flexwood is hung.

Note: Trimming on the wall should be minimized to the greatest extent, since it is a serious matter to cut into the wall lining.

The edges of Flexwood are factory trimmed straight and parallel.

If the edges of the Flexwood lap after hanging, and must be trimmed, insert a zinc strip under the seam to trim on.

(9b) **Pasting**—Mix paste, as specified on container, and apply uniformly to the back of the Flexwood with a 4½ in. short bristle paint brush. Make sure there are no dry spots.

Use special care to insure a full continuous coat of paste at the edges. Allow the paste to set until tacky.

(9c) **Wall Sizing**—After pasting back of Flexwood, apply thin coat of paste to wall, allowing same to become tacky before hanging Flexwood.

Note: The tackiness of the paste may be tested by touching the surface with the palm of the hand. If the sheet is raised off the table, the desired degree of tackiness has been reached.

(9d) **Hanging**—Hang the Flexwood by starting from a true, plumb line at the center of each wall. Place the sheets in the designated numerical order, matching the figure of the wood of adjacent sheets at the abutting edges.

Note: Each sheet of matched stock is numbered at the factory so that the figure of the wood in adjacent sheets will match when applied in the correct sequence.

Butt edges together lightly and first secure the top edge at joint before securing the remainder of the sheet to the wall. Do not lap joints.

Use a 3-in. scraper or broad knife for application, scraping the surface with heavy pressure in the direction of the grain only, eliminating all paste and air pockets.

A paper hanger's roller is not satisfactory.

Sheets shall be bent and thoroughly secured at re-entrant angles and corners.

Do not moisten the face of Flexwood, except as may be necessary to wipe off the paste. This must be done carefully, using a moist sponge—not wet.

(10) Solid Wood Trim

Note: See also note following pdr. (1).

(10a) After the Flexwood is thoroughly dry and before finish is applied, (this contractor) (the Carpentry Contractor) shall apply all solid wood trim over the Flexwood in accordance with detail drawings.

(10b) Trim consisting of (cornices) (picture moulds) (wainscot caps) (baseboards) (panel moulds) (specify) shall be accurately and substantially applied. All joints shall match perfectly and all nails shall be neatly set.

Sand smooth and putty all nail holes.

(11) Finishing

(11a) **Inspection and Preliminary Preparation**—Inspect the wall critically before finishing to insure against air pockets not thoroughly and permanently secured to the wall.

Spots not properly secured may be detected by the hollow sound when the finger tips are passed lightly over the surface.

All spots not properly pasted tight shall be pasted tight by the aid of a warm pressing iron, placing a piece of scrap Flexwood, wood to wood, against wall under the iron.

(11b) **Filling Knots in Flexwood**—Where the wood knots have fallen out, they shall be replaced with Swedish Putty, using the following formula:

Whiting—2 parts by volume

Plaster of Paris—1 part by volume

Mix these powders thoroughly and then add glue size (one half to one pound of ground glue to a gallon of hot water).

Stir the powder and the glue size together until a very stiff consistency is obtained (almost too thick to stir) then thin to a working consistency with varnish. This may be colored to match wood with standard dry colors.

The Swedish Putty shall be applied over the knot hole with a putty knife and allowed to dry. It is then sanded and shellaced. The knot is then painted in by hand, using an artist's brush.

(11c) **Sanding**—Thoroughly sand the Flexwood surface to a uniformly smooth high polish, using fine sandpaper. Sand only in the direction of the grain.

Note: The quality of the final finish, as on any wood surface, is dependent upon its smoothness prior to finishing.

(11d) **Finish**—Be sure all paste spots have been removed and Flexwood has been drying at least 48 hours before applying finish.

Note: Here specify the particular finish selected.

Note: A wide variety of finishes may be applied to the Flexwood surface. Most progressive decorators, as well as THE FLEXWOOD COMPANY, advocate the use of the wood in its natural color, without stains or filler.

Both stains and wood fillers may be used as on any wood surface, but open pore (unfilled) work is recommended, since it shows the texture and quality of the wood to the best advantage.

Excellent results are obtained with two coats of flat lacquer or a coat of gloss varnish followed by a coat of flat varnish and for either finish one coat of thin shellac may first be applied to Flexwood.

Due to unavoidable irregularities, inherent in wall surfaces, gloss finishes are not recommended.

FLEXWOOD — SHORT FORM SPECIFICATIONS

Flexwood, as manufactured by THE FLEXWOOD COMPANY, 4413 West Division Street, Chicago, Illinois, shall be applied in strict accordance with the manufacturer's most recent specifications, to the areas specified below, or as indicated in blueprint (see note). This contractor shall also submit samples of the finished Flexwood to the architect, if required, for approval before proceeding with the work. This sample shall be picked from wood which will be used on this job.

Note: Specify the areas to be covered, giving a list of the wood to be used as well, or refer to the blueprint by sheet and number.



Living Room—Model Room, Department Store, Detroit
Early American living room in knotty pine



Bedroom—North Shore, Chicago
Flush walls in matched mahogany. Natural finish



Living Room—Delineator Studios, New York
Matched walnut, flush walls
with special hand carved type mouldings



Board Room—Administration Building, World's Fair, Chicago
 Burnham, Bennett & Holabird, Architects
 Wall treatment in lacewood
 Mural in Flexwood overlays. Designed by David A. Leavitt

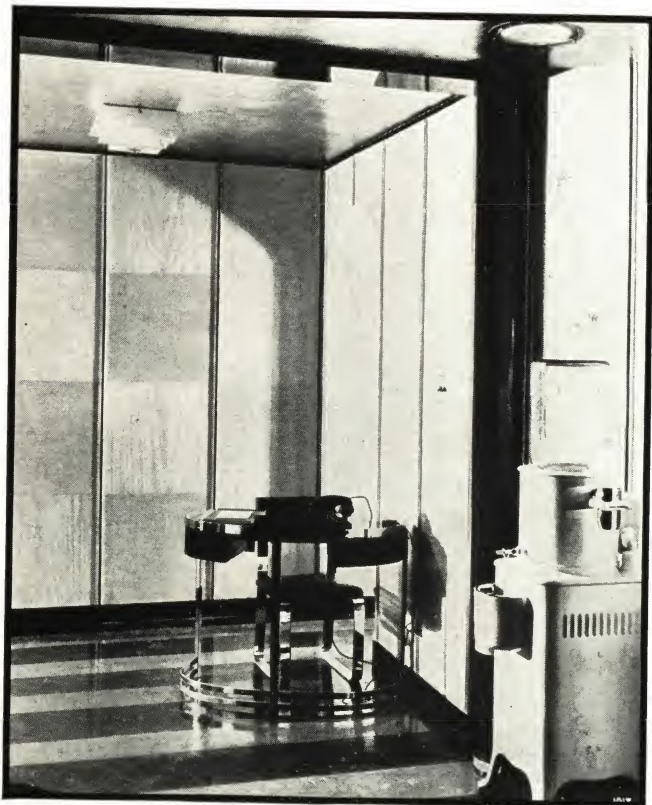
Photo by Hedrich-Blessing



Flexwood in Steel Elevator Cabs,
Office Building,
Chicago



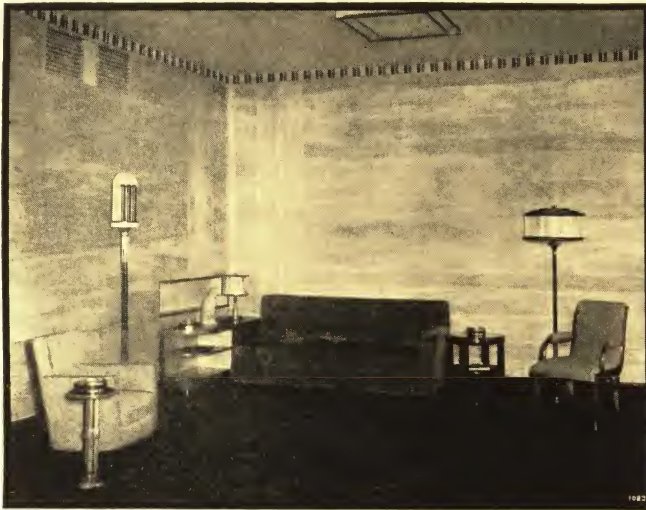
Broker's Private Office, Chicago
Quartered oak applied to corrugated transite
Holabird & Root, Architects



Suite of Offices—General Electric Representatives, Chicago
Rebore & Wentworth, Architects
Modern treatment. Prima Vera in reverse squares



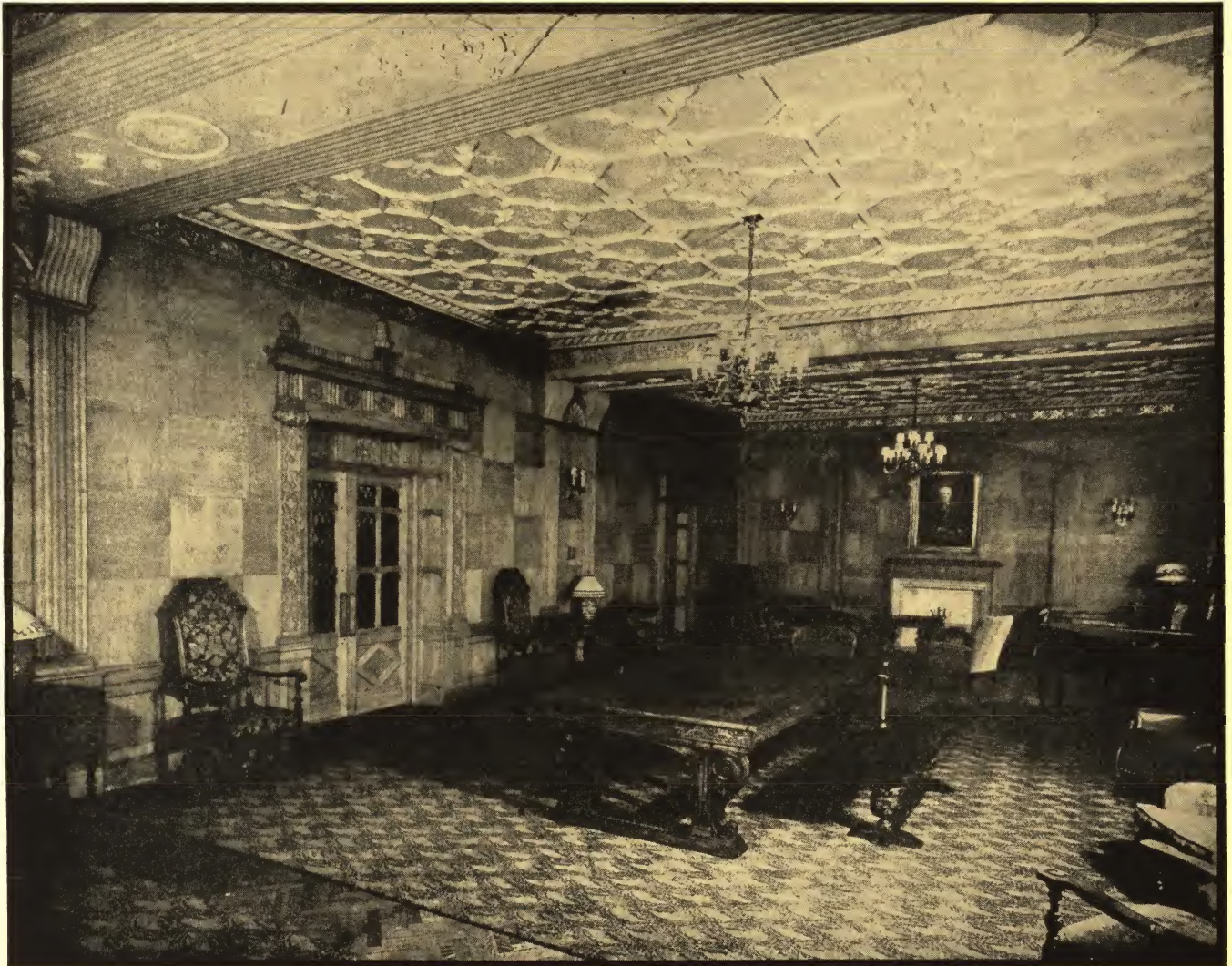
Doctor's Reception Room, Chicago
James Hudson, Architect
Matched walnut paneled design



Empire State Club, Empire State Building, New York
Shreve, Lamb & Harmon, Architects
Modern treatment in Prima Vera

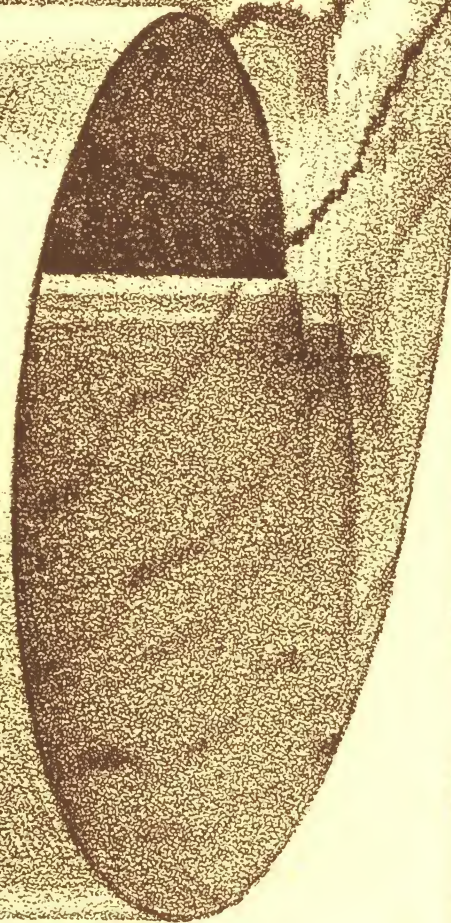


Decorators Reception Room, New York
Plain Wall treatment
Matched Prima Vera



Sangamo Club, Springfield, Illinois
Helme & Helme, Architects
Quartered oak in 22-in. squares

flexwood



THE FLEXWOOD COMPANY

**4413 West Division Street
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**